

Docket No.: ST 2623.01 US
USSN: 09/495,552

PATENT
Art Unit: 2653

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 22-35 are pending in the present application.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed May 19, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and claims 3-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-4, amended claims 5 and 22, and added claims 36-40.

In addition, the Examiner indicated allowable subject matter for claims 23, 24, and 28-31 if they are rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

VI. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(2) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,657,927 issued to Awano et al. ("Awano"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the following reasons.

Awano discloses an optical head comprising a laser light source, detectors, a reflecting mirror, a magnetic coil, and a driving circuit, which are formed in a monolithic manner on a surface of a substrate. The substrate can be also processed into a slider (Abstract). Awano, however, does not disclose a slider portion having an air bearing surface layer deposited thereon.

Awano does not disclose, suggest, or render obvious a slider portion having an air bearing surface layer deposited thereon.

To support a 102 rejection, the Examiner must show that "each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bro. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628,

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631 (Fed. Cir. 1987), (MPEP §2131). In addition, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989), (MPEP §2131). Here the Examiner has not pointed out the specific language in Awano that teaches a slider portion having an air bearing surface layer deposited thereon.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection be withdrawn.

VII. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected, under U.S.C. § 103(a): (1) claims 3 and 5 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,625,617 issued to Hopkins et al ("Hopkins") and further in view of Awano; (2) claim 4 as being unpatentable Awano, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,917,848 issued to Claisse et al ("Claisse"); (3) claims 22, 25, and 32 as being unpatentable over Ukita et al (Applications of an extremely short strong-feedback configuration of an external-cavity laser diode system fabricated with GaAs-based integration technology) and further in view of Awano; (4) claims 33-35 as being unpatentable over Ukita and Awano and further in view of Hopkins; and (5) claim 26-27 as being unpatentable over Ukita and Awano and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,064 issued to Hajjar ("Hajjar"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the following reasons.

Hopkins discloses an optical flat having an optically flat surface, a slider having a reference surface and a further surface, and a semiconductor laser having an emission surface. The reference surface is in contact with the optical head surface. There is also a conductive adhesive means. A force is applied to the laser to urge the laser toward the slider and the optically flat surface, such that the emission surface is in contact with the optically flat surface. This, however, is not the same as having a slider region that is carried out by depositing an air bearing surface layer on a portion of said semiconductor

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substrate. There is nowhere in Hopkins that discloses a bearing surface layer deposited on a slider portion?

As stated above, Awano discloses an optical head comprising a laser light source, detectors, a reflecting mirror, a magnetic coil, and a driving circuit, which are formed in a monolithic manner on a surface of a substrate. The substrate can be also processed into a slider (Abstract). Awano, however, does not disclose a slider portion having an air bearing surface layer deposited thereon.

Claisse discloses a vertical cavity surface emitting laser with an integrated phase shift mask for use in an optical pickup head for high density optical storage applications and a method of fabrication (Abstract). Unlike the present invention, Claisse does not disclose a bearing surface layer deposited on a slider portion.

Ukita discloses a near-field optical apparatus comprising a semiconductor substrate, the semiconductor substrate including at least one laser region, the semiconductor substrate including a slider region (page 5560-5561)". Ukita, however, does not disclose a bearing surface layer deposited on a slider portion.

Hajjar discloses a protective layer that comprises a material selected from diamond-like carbon (Col. 8, lines 53-65). Hajjar does not disclose a bearing surface layer deposited on a slider portion as in the claimed invention.

Hopkins, Awano, Claisse, Ukita, and Hajjar, taken alone or in any combination, do not disclose, suggest, or render obvious a bearing surface layer deposited on a slider portion.

Therefore, Applicant believes that independent claims 5, 22 and their respective dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103(a) be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

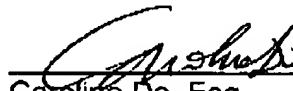
In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1175.

Respectfully submitted,

DISCOVISION ASSOCIATES

Dated: August 18, 2004



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